GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:729
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
PRESERVATION OF GROUND WATER RESOURCES
Borkataky Shri Narayan Chandra

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy formulated by the Government for installing tube wells and groundwater exploration and exploitation including protection and preservation of ground water resources;

(b) the details of policy being implemented in Assam in this regard; and

(c) the funds provided to Government of Assam under the flood management during the last five years, year-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)

(a) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to formulate plans for installation of tube wells, groundwater exploration and exploitation including protection and preservation of ground water resources. However, the Government of India had adopted National Water Policy in the year 1987 for guiding the formulation of policies and programmes for water resources development and management. The policy has been revised and adopted in the year 2002. This policy is for implementation in the whole country including in the State of Assam. The provisions made in the policy relating various aspects of ground water are outlined below:-

(i) There should be a periodical reassessment of the ground water potential on a scientific basis, taking into consideration the quality of the water available and economic viability of its extraction.

(ii) Exploitation of ground water resources should be so regulated as not to exceed the recharging possibilities, as also to ensure social equity. The detrimental environmental consequences of over-exploitation of ground water need to be effectively prevented by the Central and State Governments. Ground water recharge projects should be developed and implemented for improving both the quality and availability of ground water resource.

(iii) Integrated and coordinated development of surface water and ground water resources and their conjunctive use, should be envisaged right from the project planning stage and should form an integral part of the project implementation.

(iv) Over exploitation of ground water should be avoided especially near the coast to prevent ingress of seawater into sweet water aquifers.

(b) No separate State Water Policy has been formulated by the Government of Assam so far.

(c) Funds to the Government of Assam are being released by the Ministry of Water Resources under Critical Flood Control Scheme in Brahmaputra Board and Barak Valley. This scheme was approved in November, 2004 for Rs. 150 crore as the share of the Central Government (90% grant and 10% loan). This scheme will be executed by the concerned State Governments. The funds so far released under this scheme to the State of Assam is as follows:-

Year	Funds released (Rs. in crore)
2004-05	9.30
2005-06	11.268

In addition to the above, the Planning Commission has also provided

funds for Flood Control to the Government of Assam, year-wise detail of which is as follows:-

Year	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Funds Released (Rs. in crore)	1.50	23.60	25.00	27.00